Finding God x Kolbing Colburn

May 16, 1937

Finding & Holding On.

FINDING GOD AND HOLDING ONTO HIM

Text - Ps. 145:18 The Eternal is near all who call on him,
who call on him sincerely.

1 Tim. 1:18 Fight the good fight on these lines,
INTRO. keeping hold of faith and a good conscience.

INTRO. Mrs. Johnson's request for my topic.
Now I have to live up to it. Title and text.

Finding God is a very personal thing. Holding fast to him is an accomplishment each must make for himself.
Difficult to help others. No hard and fast rules can be laid down.
We must not expect too much from our able and learned men of science. Some believe in God and some do not, just as among ordinary folks some believe and some do not.
Mere information and accumulation of facts is not necessarily knowledge. A mass of facts can smother the truth.
While seeking to find the Eternal Reality we look as thru a glass darkly. Our human minds are too finite to grasp fully the Infinite.
The little girl's thrill when she first went to school-she learned with great rapidity and each day looked forward to learning more. She asked the teacher-"How long will it be before I know more than I do not know?"
"Ah, little girl, you will never know as much as you do not know."

How, then, shall we reach thru the blackness and confusi of the hour, the uncertainty of the future, and lay hold upon that which is eternal? I cannot tell you how, but let me offer some suggestions which you may or may not accept and which I offer very humbly.

I. First let me suggest that to lay hold of the Eternal we must live profoundly.
1. A great deal of our living is on the surface of things.
The trivialities of life do not reveal the infinite.
All is not gold that glitters. Things that dazzle are not necessarily beauty. We subsist largely on tinsel and flare.

I. 2. Contacting and gripping the Eternal marks the highest achievement of man.

Our modern inventions and engineering projects are truly great accomplishments and have required tremendous searchings and extreme concentration of effort. Not less but more searching and concentration of effort is required to achieve the greatest realization of all

It takes more than concentrated brains to penetrate to the infinite and lay hold on the Eternal, it takes a sincere heart that yearns and searches, it takes a soul with windows wide open, it takes a determined and untiring will, it takes the whole life of a person to find God and hold fast to him. In short, it takes profound living that penetrates beneath the surface of things and is not deceived by the glaring confusion of the diversified opinions of men.

II. My next suggestion is that we must find the right associations in order to find and hold fast to God.

1. Read the writings and records of those who in their day held fast to Eternal Reality.

Poets and song writiers, philosophers and teachers, statesmen, artists, composers, scientists, business men, preachers, writers, tradesmen, humanitarian workers, religious seers.

2. In every community you will find some who know God and hold on to him. Not that they will tell you how, but you might catch a spirit from their lives that will help you.

There is an old saying that character is caught not taught, and perhaps our faith in and understanding of God may be caught from those who know him.

3. Music & art — the sciences & religious writers.

III. My third suggestion is that we practice the ways of God.

1. The Bible teaches us what those ways are. God is love, is goodness and mercy, is righteousness. Jesus has taught us what these characteristics of God mean. Let us practice them in our daily lives and they will help us to find God, to know him and to hold fast to him. Now these ways of God are not merely a matter between God and man- they are social and have to do with our dealings with one another. By practicing them among ourselves and in all our dealings with others we become Godlike.

IV. Finally let me remind you that life is a matter of growth and so is our contact with the Eternal. We cannot achieve the greatest experience of human personality in a moment. It takes a life-time.

Let me illustrate. Not long ago I threw away an old "Perfection" oil heater. "New Perfection No.62"

In closling I wish to say something about the back yard of the manse.

What it was once
What it is now
What it will be if we keep up looking after it.

The same with our lives. We must clean out the rubbish that has accumulated thru the years, plant flowers and lawn in the place of weeds and then work with God tocultivate our lives into beautiful gardens of love and beauty and helpful service.